



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY — DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



RICHARD SHUMSKY
Chief Probation Officer

February 26, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Richard Shumsky *RS*
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: ESCAPE ATTEMPT

This is to advise your Board of an incident this morning involving the apparent escape attempt during the transportation of nine (9) minors. No minors escaped, all minors remained in secure custody, and there were no injuries to report. The minors involved were all serious and violent offenders. The minors were being tried as adults and transported for court appearances. The minors had been arrested for various charges including 187 PC (murder), 211 PC (armed robbery), 245 PC (assault with a deadly weapon), and 288 PC (lewd acts with a child). The incident caused major disruption on the freeway and required the support of the California Highway Patrol and other law enforcement; the incident also was the subject of media attention.

At approximately 6:00 a.m. in the Boyle Heights area of the Golden State freeway, the minors were being transported by Probation Transportation Deputies (TD) from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) to Central Juvenile Hall (CJH). The TDs were then to rendezvous with Los Angeles Sheriff Department Deputies for transportation of the minors to adult court. One of the minors suddenly yelled to the TDs, "Pull the <expletive> van over or I'll blow your brains out." At this point, the TD sitting in the passenger position turned around and observed a minor with his hands raised and gesturing with what appeared to be a black and shiny object in his hand. The TD thought it was a weapon and believed this to be an attempt to escape.

As per policy, the TDs immediately pulled over to the emergency shoulder of the freeway, exited and locked the vehicle, took the keys, and called for law enforcement assistance. The California Highway Patrol responded to Probation's request for assistance. Shortly thereafter, additional law

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enforcement officers from other agencies arrived and secured the scene. The minors were removed from the van, it was ensured that they were properly handcuffed, and transported to Central Juvenile Hall by probation transportation

Although the preliminary indication was that no weapon was discovered, a full investigation is being conducted and I will keep your Board apprised of the outcome.

RS:ph

cc: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court